

# Practices That Work!

### Reason for starting the innovative practice

Geographic location of Romblon Province in general and Looc municipality, in particular made National Government Agencies often difficult to provide consistent assistance necessary to effectively manage its coastal resources. This is coupled with the difficulty in getting regular transportation in going to and back of the said place. The long issue of illegal and destructive fishing and recently the application of toxic substances like cyanide in fishing with aid of "compressor." Even the collection of tropical fishes using the same substances was so rampant. Municipal licensing system to small-scale fishermen was not fully implemented and fishery law enforcement is not effectively functioning due to weak local policy.

### Role of Implementing Organization

Initiated by the incumbent Mayor and technically backed-up by a lady Municipal Agriculturist with all support of the SB, Municipal CRM Program have been developed and implemented. This is due largely to the strong partnership with local developmental NGO that made consistent with LGUs CRM program. It started with coastal resource data generation, updating and profiling; establishment and management of marine sanctuary in Looc Bay; amendment and modification of Municipal Fisheries Ordinances; strengthening of FARMCs and fisherfolk organizations and IEC coastal resource materials. The municipality garnered No. 7 in the national Galing Pook Award presenting the marine sanctuary as showcase (less than 2 years old). The MLGU allocated yearly budget for its CRM program.

### How it works

While the municipal government of Looc is in the process of creating and organizing the CRM Technical Working Group, in updating its municipal coastal resource profile and other related activities in partnership with local NGO, they initiated the establishment of a 40 ha. marine sanctuary in Looc Bay. The municipal government organized an interim Bantay Dagat Task Force and selected few trusted fisherfolk top voluntarily guard the sanctuary through group shifting schedules. It provides a little amount to purchase a small pumpboat and for the construction of a floating raft guardhouse. For less than one year, people in the area witnessed the presence of several big fishes in the sanctuary area. Even those who opposed the sanctuary establishment before realized that such kind of project really work. This is the take off point that municipal officials and the people particularly the fisherfolks join together in formalizing its CRM Program.

### General Information

#### Innovative Practice Name

Establishing a marine sanctuary

#### Location

Municipality of Looc, Romblon

#### Date Started

May 1999

#### Date Completed

September 2000

#### Estimated Cost

LGU Cost: PhP 300,000

#### Implementing Office Address/Tel./E-mail/Web site

Municipal Agriculturist  
Office of the Mayor  
Looc, Romblon

#### Contact Person/Address/Tel./E-mail

Municipal Mayor  
Municipal Agriculturist  
Looc, Romblon

#### Key Consultants/Address/Tel./E-mail

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### **How barriers/obstacles were overcome**

- Municipal officials conducted frequent meeting with the fishermen using compressor for diving and used cyanide in spearheading the fish and in collecting aquarium fishes and explain to them the implications and adverse effects to their health and to the coastal environment
- With partner NGO intensify community organizing and development of IEC resource materials for information and better understanding among fisherfolks
- The MAO and Municipality actively participate in the series of planning workshop
- Disseminate intensively to the general public the information on the positive effects of the marine sanctuary
- Invited the media (recently the ABS-CBN) featuring nationwide the successful effects of people's participation in the CRM program started by showcasing the marine sanctuary
- Continuous linkage with other institutions (recently they received favorable answer from CRMP to conduct technical training in November)

### **Details of benefits and results**

- Increased in fish and aquatic products population within municipal water resulted from sustainable municipal marine sanctuary management
- Increasing number of civil society's participation in municipality's CRM Program
- Improved LGU and NGO and community relationship in implementing related development programs and projects of the municipality
- Effective local service delivery to coastal communities



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